

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A baffle plate assembly for surrounding a substrate holder in a plasma processing system comprising:

a centering ring configured to be coupled to said substrate holder, wherein at least a portion of said centering ring extends radially outside a periphery of said substrate holder; and

a baffle plate comprising one or more passageways, wherein said baffle plate is configured to be centered within said plasma processing system by coupling said baffle plate to said portion of said centering ring extending radially outside said periphery of said substrate holder.

2. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 1, wherein said centering ring is coupled to said substrate holder using fasteners.

3. The baffle plate assembly of claim 1, wherein said centering ring comprises a centering feature configured to center said baffle plate on said centering ring.

4. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 3, wherein said centering feature comprises at least one of a centering pin, a centering receptacle, a centering edge, and radial face gear teeth.

5. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 3, wherein said baffle plate comprises a mating feature configured to be coupled with said centering feature.

6. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 5, wherein said mating feature comprises at least one of a centering pin, a centering receptacle, a centering edge, and radial face gear teeth.

7. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 1, wherein said centering ring is made from aluminum.

8. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 1, wherein said baffle plate is made from at least one of aluminum, alumina, silicon, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, quartz, carbon, and ceramic.

9. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 1, wherein a surface of said baffle plate comprises a protective barrier.

10. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 1, wherein a portion of a surface of said baffle plate comprises a protective barrier.

11. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 9 or 10, wherein said protective barrier comprises at least one of surface anodization, a coating formed using plasma electrolytic oxidation, and a spray coating.

12. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 9 or 10, wherein said protective barrier comprises a layer of at least one of a III-column element and a Lanthanum element.

13. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 9 or 10, wherein said protective barrier comprises at least one of Al_2O_3 , Yttria (Y_2O_3), Sc_2O_3 , Sc_2F_3 , YF_3 , La_2O_3 , CeO_2 , Eu_2O_3 , and DyO_3 .

14. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 1, wherein said one or more passageways comprises at least one of a slot, and an orifice.

15. (Original) The baffle plate assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the size, shape, and distribution of said one or more passageways varies on said baffle plate.

16. (Currently Amended) A disposable baffle plate for surrounding a substrate holder in a plasma processing system comprising:

U.S. Non-Provisional Application of FINK et al., atty. dkt. 071469-0305806

a ring comprising a first edge configured to be coupled to said substrate holder via a centering ring with at least a portion of said centering ring extending radially outside a periphery of said substrate holder, a second edge configured to be proximate a wall of said plasma processing system, and one or more openings to permit the passage of gas therethrough,

wherein said coupling of said first edge to said ~~substrate holder~~ centering ring facilitates centering said ring in said plasma processing system such that a space between said second edge and said wall is substantially constant.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of replacing a baffle plate disposed adjacent a centering ring with at least a portion of said centering ring extending radially outside a periphery of a substrate holder, said baffle plate surrounding a said substrate holder in a plasma processing system, the method comprising:

removing said first baffle plate from said centering ring in said plasma processing system; and

installing a second baffle plate in said plasma processing system by coupling said second baffle plate to said ~~substrate holder~~ centering ring, wherein said coupling facilitates auto-centering of said second baffle plate in said plasma processing system.